

**PARK BOARD  
CIP PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
December 10, 2008  
Foster Community Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Dusty Fancher, Cynthia Ward, Paul Carrier, Brian Smith, Tina Houghton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patrick Murray (excused, arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Ron Lott (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Murdock Jemerson, Parks and Recreation Director; Gary Andrews, Model Hobby; Kenetha and Michael Gibson, Capitol Area BMX; Ron Eggleston, Friends of Fenner; Harold Leeman; Jane and Gred Parker, Greencroft Neighborhood Organization; Loretta Stanaway and Tim Bogar, Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries; Brian Anderson, EDC; Anita Beavers, Colonial Village Neighborhood Association; Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood Association; Dee King and Robin Sackevich, Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park; Ann Laurie and Douglas Adelman, MDOT; Kellie Brown, Interim Board Secretary

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.

**STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:**

Kibbey stated this meeting is to provide citizens an opportunity to have input into the budget process. The Park Board will make recommendations to the Mayor as to what projects should be funded in the next year. The process begins when the Board talks with staff and public, the Director puts in recommendation to the Mayor and meets on the budget and the Mayor submits his budget (which will include the Parks CIP projects) to Council.

Kibbey stated there are three **additional opportunities for further input later in the process**: one is when each department director makes a presentation, Council will hold two city wide hearings where the public can speak and when Council makes their final recommendation there is yet another meeting.

Kibbey stated there are two ranking systems; first there is the Park and Recreation Master Plan priority guidelines (copies of the guidelines were provided to the audience). **Second is the prioritization by the Park Board.**

Kibbey stated there are two things that will help to get projects; one is to be at the meeting to provide an understanding that there are people involved who are trying to make something happen at a park and second is to bring something to the table ie: labor, donations, energy, etc. It also helps to create a "master plan" for your park of what needs to be done. This may be accomplished ~~by simply~~ as easily as walking around the park **with a planner from the Department** and noting what needs to be done.

Testimony from audience speakers began:

Gary Andrews, 560 Brooklyn, Lansing stated a number of years ago model **plane** enthusiasts prepared a detailed plan for a hobby park at the former Aurelius dump site. The plan was submitted to the Park Board and City Council several years ago and Council supported the concept. City Council asked administration to direct Public Service to create a feasibility study, which was done, submitted to Council and placed on file with Parks. A Model park at this location could accommodate a national event due to the proximity to hotels, camping, and restaurants. Andrews would like to see this idea considered. This site could be used for model planes, R/C cars, etc.

Jemerson inquired how much this project was projected to cost. Andrews stated in 2003 it was estimated at \$1,000,000 dollars, but there could be funds available under Brownfield Redevelopment and several state funds.

Anita Beavers, 3010 Boston Blvd., Colonial Village wondered if the park at Elmhurst and the tennis courts could be looked at. They are also looking at putting in a small memorial plaque at Elmhurst for a neighbor who helped with the flowers and are also concerned about the lack of budget for Forestry personnel to tend to damaged trees. She also asked if the River Trail and Park map is one map with the same information.

Jemerson stated the forestry issues need to be addressed at budget time. The memorial plaque would require a form completed. The River Trail map and Park map are currently two separate maps.

Loretta Stanaway, 546 Armstrong Rd., stated she wanted to lend her support to keep Waverly as a golf course, but is not opposed to a multi purpose facility. As for the basin project at Mt. Hope Cemetery they initially were told there would be CIP funds requested to match the Fratcher Funds, but now they have been told the request is not going to be done. She would hate to see this become a precedent causing it to drag out this project and see it happen a second year. Also, the proposed list received at the last Board meeting the CIP list had \$75,000 for North Cemetery and \$75,000 for the cemetery office, but the new list does not have the cemetery office work listed.

Jemerson stated the cemetery office has received a lot of work by the Public Service Department. A lot of the items addressed on the first list have been done.

Stanaway stated she has concerns about the City Market and the economic conditions the country faces, that the developer will not have the available credit to have the resources to carry out his end of the deal.

Ron Eggleston, 3314 Parkview Ave., President of Fenner Board asked what the target amount of this year's projects would be.

Jemerson stated approximately \$1.2 million dollars.

Eggleston also inquired about the bridge at Fenner as it is definitely a priority 1 and a safety issue. Jemerson stated it is funded and being worked on.

Brian Anderson, EDC, talked about potential funding sources for improvement to the park surrounding City Market, which is to being construction April 1. One of the things talked about was adding downtown amenities and exploring ideas such as a skating rink for winter and use as an amphitheater in the summer. Anderson stated he also works closely with Old Town and they are looking at Burchard Park and playground equipment, but there will be funds needed for other projects.

Eggleston stated Fenner needs some paving projects that are safety issues. There are also repairs needed to the parking lot, building entrance and on some of the trails and he would like to see funding for this.

Kibbey asked Eggleston to submit a map of the areas that need repair.

John Pollard, 1718 Blair St, stated he served 14 years on the Park Board and was never able to convince colleagues to fund Forestry. Trees are being trimmed every 14-20 instead of 4-7 and as we saw when the tornado came through, this is a matter of public safety. The golf courses had always made money until they were changed to an enterprise fund. He feels Parks and Recreation is a quality of life issue, not a revenue making process.

Pollard referred to the 5-year plan and recited previous budget amounts and what was used for CIP and administrative costs and the 5-year plan has not lived up. Park millage was originally to be used for CIP and not salaries. The Park Board is the only defense the citizens have with administration.

Kenetha Gibson, 1009 N. Walnut, President of BMX, requested lights at the track. They run national races at night and it is dark unless they rent the lights. Also asked for additional bleachers, picnic tables and if they received donations could they put up lights.

Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood, reminded the Park Board the 5-year plan for Hunter Park included a gazebo, picnic tables and grills.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Kellie Brown, Interim Board Secretary

Approved January 14, 2009